

17 York, Con. Feb. 25th 1828.

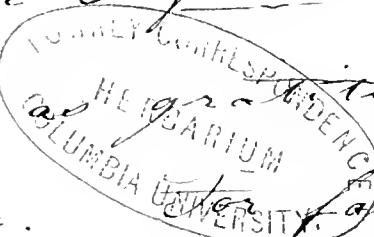


Dear Sir.

I have just rec'd a letter from my friend Mr. Coker Esq. informing me (as from you) that an expedition is fitting out for the South Seas, and that among others a Botanist is wanted to accompany it. Mr. C. states the impossibility of his accepting the situation, should it be offered him, and obligingly proposes to recommend me for it, desiring me to write you immediately if it were my wish to obtain it. This, together with the half-hours acquaintance which I had with you in the fall of 1823, when I left with you a small package of imperfect specimens of northern and Georgia plants, will I presume be a sufficient apology for my addressing you. The situation mentioned by you to Mr. C. it would give me great pleasure to obtain, provided my qualifications are such as will enable me satisfactorily to perform its duties. To my bodily qualifications, (a point, which, considering the fatigue and dangers to

be encountered, would seem to deserve some share of attention) I think little exception could be taken. A constitution naturally robust has by no means lost its former strength under the discipline, sometimes severe, which it has long been accustomed to sustain.

As to mental and acquired qualifications, I would say little, and perhaps little can be said. In justice to myself, however, I would state that they are founded upon a pretty close attention for 7 years to plants principally of this country, during which time I have formed a collection of nearly 3,000 plants, mostly preserved by myself, with many duplicates of some species. My fondness for the science was at first, as my friends would say, excessive, and I find that increasing knowledge but "alit flammam". My acquaintance with foreign plants as I have before hinted is but limited, but the examination of most part of about 200 species from Paris cultivated the last year in the garden of Dr. Desv. has made me acquainted to some extent with a few foreign genera. ^{Whether} ~~therefor~~

the want of an extensive knowledge of foreign Botany will preclude a person from being useful, is for others to judge. If it is to be required of me to establish new genera and species to any extent I certainly am not ~~well~~ qualified: but if the collection and preservation of plants, and noting of such particulars as may not be readily ascertained from the dried specimens, be the main objects, I should hope that I might not disappoint expectation, ~~It is to be~~ I feel that faithfulness & perseverance, as well  as further information will not be wanting.

information respecting my qualifications I would beg leave to refer you particularly to Dr. Eli Poes, N. H., my instructor for a year & more, also to Dr. Edward C. Hook, a Tuberist, and Mr. Brace, L. N. Y. With Dr. L. C. Beck I have less acquaintance. There should or should not be a probability of my receiving the appointment, a speedy reply to this would be thankfully received, as it would either free me from suspended or enable me to rest more quietly in it. During a residence of a year in Maryland & the

last Cal. and 2 years in Virginia I collected a number of plants which might be interesting to you. I had intended to see you and communicate specimens to you on my return in the fall of 1826, but unfortunately for me, you were absent, and I have since scarcely felt myself authorized to write. If such facts as I may have would be desirable to you, I will with pleasure communicate them. I am anxious to learn whether the 2nd vol. of your Flora is soon to appear.

In haste I am with much respect

Yours &c. James P. Robbins.



Miss R.

Norfolk Sept 26

Dr. John Torrey
New York

Dr. M. Robbins

Sept 25th 1828

Rec'd Oct 29th

Stockbridge Oct. 29th. 1830.

HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir,

This will be handed you by Mr. Whiting, a young gentleman of this vicinity, and a student in our office, who purposed to attend these lectures at your Institution, & whom I would recommend to your attention.

Six months have now elapsed since I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from you which still remains unanswered. Having entered this year, in good earnest, upon the practice of my profession, being in connection with a physician whose business is quite extensive, I have found myself sufficiently occupied in endeavoring to perform the duties which have devolved upon me with satisfaction to myself. In the mean while I have kept myself quite a loof from Botany, except that I have not compelled myself unpassing to close my eyes upon its beautiful objects. Even correspondence with my botanical friends, until very lately, has, on my part, been wholly intermittent. I have in this exercised not a little forbearance, and fear I have too long tried that of my correspondents: if not, I shall now endeavor to place myself upon my former footing with them. I hope to be able hereafter to spend a portion of my time upon botanical subjects, which I think I can take up with increased interest.

Your last letter (of 2 March) mentions the receipt of a box of plants, which I had forwarded by J. Battell Esq. I am gratified that you will be able to draw from its contents some facts of interest to students of American botany. It will give me pleasure, as far as I have the means, to communicate any additional information which you may choose to specify respecting the plants sent. I hope you will retain the package not so long as you have need of any of the plants which it contains for further examination or comparison (for I would gladly thro' you learn them all myself); and if no longer of use to you, I shall be happy to receive them at your leisure, with such other specimens as you may please to favor me with. On their arrival I shall ~~enter~~ examine the ^{JOHNSON CORRESPONDENCE} ~~specimens~~ ^{HE READ} & your observations with interest. I find ~~that~~ I can get them more safely if sent by the Steam boat to Providence; as they are ^{conveyed} by the Blackstone to within 30 rods of my office door. The boat can then if you please be directed to be left at Josiah Chapin & Co's, Providence. Mr. Whiting will take charge of the boat to the boat as soon as prepared.

I have not learned what was the result of the mission of Dr. Gates - doubtless very successful however unless he was arrested by sickness. — The Antarctic Expedition just launched does not often forward notices of its discoveries in the other world at least, none of them have as yet reached me. — I would enquire

whether the Cryptogamia of Dr. Beck is published, and
is of much value, or whether we may hope for the ap-
pearance of your work upon that subject after the
completion of your Flora? Please favor me with a
letter at the time the box is forwarded.

I remain, Sir

truly yours

M. Robbins



J. C. D. Robins-

Dec 29th 1882

Dear Mr. W.

Am. Day 14, 1883

Steinbark

By favor of
Mr. C. D. Robins.

Prof. John Forney